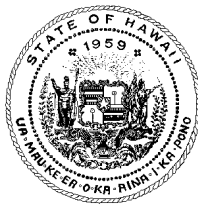


DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR



STATE OF HAWAII  
**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY**  
919 Ala Moana Boulevard, 4th Floor  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814

**MAX N. OTANI**  
DIRECTOR

**Maria C. Cook**  
Deputy Director  
Administration

**Tommy Johnson**  
Deputy Director  
Corrections

**Jordan Lowe**  
Deputy Director  
Law Enforcement

No. \_\_\_\_\_

TESTIMONY ON SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 25, SENATE DRAFT 1  
REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC TO ALLOW FAITH PODS  
BASED ON KAPU ALOHA TO BE ESTABLISHED WITHIN EACH  
CORRECTIONAL CENTER.

by  
Max N. Otani, Director

House Committee on Corrections, Military, and Veterans  
Representative Takashi Ohno, Chair  
Representative Sonny Ganaden, Vice Chair

Wednesday, April 7, 2021; 9:00 a.m.  
State Capitol, Via Video Conference

Chair Ohno, Vice Chair Ganaden, and Members of the Committee:

The Department of Public Safety (PSD) supports Senate Concurrent Resolution (SCR) 25, Senate Draft (SD) 1, which requests PSD to allow faith pods based on Kapu Aloha to be established within each correctional center. The Department agrees with the value of this suggestion and has already begun the review process to determine if PSD may be allowed to establish faith pods in our facilities, and if so, what the process would entail, including consideration of the space requirements, funding needs, appropriate staffing level, etc.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this measure.

**SCR-25-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/5/2021 12:52:35 PM

Testimony for CMV on 4/7/2021 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Jim Albertini	Malu 'Aina	Support	No

Comments:

Our organization is in strong support of SCR 25 establishing Kapu Aloha Faith Pods in correctional facilities. This is a win-win situation for everyone --inmates, their families, the community, and the correctional facilities. The Kapu Aloha Faith Pods will help inmates find focus, meaning, and improve their lives in a safe space. It will reduce stress and worry for inmate families, and benefit the community by having people come out of jails and prisons better than than went in. It will also help the DPS with more prisoners committed to Kapu Aloha, instead of connected to gangs.

Kapu Aloha Faith pods will be an important first step toward healing. A long range positive vision is for modern day Pu'uhonua (wellness centers and places of healing) as alternative to prisons. NO MORE PRISONS. We can do better with Pu"uhonua.

Mahalo for your support.

Jim Albertini for Malu Aina.

**SCR-25-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/5/2021 3:19:06 PM

Testimony for CMV on 4/7/2021 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Ronald Fujiyoshi	Ohana Ho`opakele	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chair Ohno, Vice-Chair Ganaden and members of the CMV Committee, Representatives Branco, Morikawa, Kobayashi, Tarnas, Kong and McDermott.

First of all, Mahalo for passing HCR40 through your committee!

SCR25 is the same resolution submitted to the Senate by Senator Shimabukuro and others. Mahalo for passing a number of bills and resolutions all helping to improve the correctional system here in Hawaii!!

Please, not only pass this resolution on Faith Pods based on Kapu Aloha, but please encourage the members of the Judicial and Hawaiian Affairs committee to do the same. If you do, we will be indebted to you and will inform the pa`ahao we are in contact with and our members of your deed.

Mahalo for your work and for the opportunity to testify!

**SCR-25-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/6/2021 8:48:47 AM

Testimony for CMV on 4/7/2021 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Sanford Yee	Hawai'i Peace and Justice	Support	No

Comments:

Our organization strongly supports SCR25 SD1. We urge "THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY TO ALLOW FAITH PODS BASED ON KAPU ALOHA TO BE ESTABLISHED WITHIN EACH CORRECTIONAL CENTER." Mahalo!

**SCR-25-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/3/2021 8:11:19 AM

Testimony for CMV on 4/7/2021 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Alan Urasaki	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

In opposition as it would pose First Amendment issues that the department would have difficulty in addressing given the current state of operations in the prison. Mahalo.

**SCR-25-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/4/2021 9:08:50 AM

Testimony for CMV on 4/7/2021 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Carrie Ann Shirota	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

Testifier Position

Present at Hearing



Aloha,

I am writing in support of SCR 25 SD1. This measure requests that the Department of Public Safety be allowed to created a Faith Pod based on Kapu Aloha to be established witin each correctional center.

As a guiding principle, this Legislative body should strongly consider and embed evidence based criminal justice strategies into public policies. Best practices dictacte that

we concentrate our efforts on sentencing reform, diversion, cash bail elimination and decarceration. Yet, as long as people are incarcerated in Hawai'i and private prisons on the continent, we must simultaneously provide meaningful rehabilitation opportunities for persons to transform their lives.

Creating faith pods based on the guiding principle of "Kapu Aloha" would contribute to individual's personal growth within a historical and contemporary cultural context, and provide additonal "tools" to enhance successful reentry when returning home.

As the former Director of Maui Economic Opportunity's Reintegration Program on Maui, I have witnessed firsthand the efficacy and transformational power of providing cultural education, services and training opportunities. We offered cultural classes such as hula, and connected with cultural practitioners throughout Maui as part of our Family Reunification Program where we were able to malama cultural sites, engage in koa forest restoration, restore fish ponds and plant kalo. Through our Reading Circle, men and women at Maui Community Correctional Center read Hawaii's Story for Hawaii's Queen. Inspired by the Queen's story, our participants wrote monologues that turned

into a play performed at the historic 'Iao Theatre, and at the Kaanapali Ritz Hotel. Participants were empowered and inspired to learn more about cultural practices (both Native Hawaiians and other participants who consider Hawai'i home), and gained a greater sense of self-worth and purpose. They saw these collective activities as opportunities to do good and give back to their 'ohana and communities. In effect, this is Restorative Justice in action!

It's encouraging to hear that Director Max Otani from the Department of Public Safety supports this measure. Please support SCR25 SD1.

Carrie Ann Shirota, Esq.

Honolulu, Hawaii

**SCR-25-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/4/2021 4:11:58 PM

Testimony for CMV on 4/7/2021 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Courtney Mrowczynski	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly **SUPPORT** SCR25 SD1.



**SCR-25-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/5/2021 2:24:46 PM

Testimony for CMV on 4/7/2021 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
david gierlach	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I urge support of this measure. Anytime those who are incarcerated can have an opportunity to form healthy community everyone wins. The over representation of native Hawaiians in our correctional system combined with the powerful witness of kapu Aloha makes this proposal even more important because it hopefully will be another vehicle through which our indigenous people can reclaim their identity and heritage.

**SCR-25-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/5/2021 5:05:07 PM

Testimony for CMV on 4/7/2021 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Gregory Herbst	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear members of the House CMV Committee,

Please pass SCR25 requesting the Department of Public Safety to establish Kapu Aloha Faith Pods in Correctional facilities.

The Kapu Aloha Faith Pods will help inmates to give focus, meaning, and dignity to improve their lives in a safe place.

Kapu Aloha Faith Pods will be a positive step toward healing.

**SCR-25-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/5/2021 6:05:22 PM

Testimony for CMV on 4/7/2021 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Rik Masterson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I very strongly support SCR 25 and, establishing Kapu Aloha Faith Pods in correctional facilities. This is a win-win situation for everyone --inmates, their families, the community, and the correctional facilities. The Kapu Aloha Faith Pods will help inmates find focus, meaning, and improve their lives in a safe space. It will reduce stress and worry for inmate families, and benefit the community by having people come out of jails and prisons better than than went in. It will also help the DPS with more prisoners committed to Kapu Aloha, instead of connected to gangs.

Kapu Aloha Faith pods will be an important first step toward healing. A long range positive vision is for modern day Pu'uhonua (wellness centers and places of healing) as alternative to prisons. NO MORE PRISONS. We can do better with Pu'uhonua.

Mahalo.

Rik Masterson

Hilo